

SGRA Meeting, 9th February 2005, The Victory

Present at meeting: JR, GR, CW, AW, CSW, PMcD, Ruth Hughes, Tom Jarman (7:50)

1 Apologies JA, CC, RL, SH, Cllr PA

JR also welcomed a new member to the meeting - Ruth Hughes who found out about the meetings from the Christmas Card.

2 Minutes of previous meeting were agreed

3 Action Points

JR still to contact the Council about hosting the website, £39 for two years

Application form for grants from the Ward Committee was received. Applied for funds for an Easter Card and a newsletter later in the year. Total requested £172, we will find out whether we're successful after the Ward Committee meeting on 7th March.

Nomad Housing application has been approved, JR to clarify exactly what the development will be with the Council, but generally felt there was little the group could do about this now. Possibility that there could be some "planning gain" that we could tap into. – TJ arrived later in the meeting and pointed out that planning gain had to be part of the original application, so we would be unlikely to get anything from the site developers at this stage.

4 Feedback from Meetings Attended

JR met with TJ and Brian, the East Gosforth Rapid Response Officer.

Dogs on Green – require more details of times and which dogs before involving the warden

Possible story for newsletter – Newcastle City Council is one of the highest issuer of Fixed Penalties for dog fouling in the country.

TJ will probably attend one in 3 of our meetings.

Gullies have been cleared out but GR thinks Lord Tool Hire have swilled cement into the one outside their premises. GR to phone Envirocall.

Development on the Green – TJ thinks we need to clarify ownership and thought that a further seat may cause problems if youths start to congregate around them. CSW commented that the seats do not have to be next to each other.

Steps – Brian agreed that the steps still required improvement

Graffiti – Rapid Response has visited every business premise on South Gosforth giving advice on graffiti removal. GR commented that there has been a new spate of graffiti on back station road.

Bonfire Night – Council now has a policy to remove any unregistered/non-controlled bonfires.

William Street – the edge of the green that slopes towards the William Streets flats will now be cut regularly as part of the green maintenance.

Parking – turning area / keep clear markings at top of Ridgewood Gardens will remain in place, idea to create parking area behind the wall has been dropped.

Trees – TJ to investigate the idea of the trees being planted at the top of Ridgewood Gardens.

Wildflowers – TJ thought the wildflower planting as suggested in the consultation may just act as a litter trap and suggested not going ahead with it.

Bank from Green to Back Station Road – will be litter picked.

JA attended panel meeting last Thursday re: proposed stretch of Bus Lane from Four Lane Ends down to the roundabouts. 3 people objected to the proposals, Council will make a decision in the next few weeks but feeling is that it is likely to gain approval.

5 Plans for Development on the Green / A Business Plan for the work

AW proposed that SGRA needs to produce a short (2 – 3 page) business/action plan that we can use to propose work to the council and use to support any funding bids that we make in the future. AW suggested headings of Land Ownership (JR to investigate and write a paragraph on this), Consultation Process, Funding and Costing of work, Long Term Management, Vision, Background of SGRA and work so far. AW to draft some costing and CSW offered to make a first attempt at drafting a plan.

TJ – has spoken to both the Leisure and Housing Departments of the Council about ownership of the Green - it does belong to Housing. TJ had shown them the plan of the Green that Shaun had drawn to use for the consultation last year.

TJ asked what consultation had been carried out – response was the leaflet drop last year prior to the AGM, which received a handful of responses. TJ said that this was much more than many groups of our kind had managed so we were "ahead of the game" in that respect.

TJ to acquire Council costing for the individual pieces of work e.g. installation of the bench, cost of planters etc. He suggested splitting the plan up into manageable pieces and also to speak to Leisure and Housing Department to see if these kinds of projects have worked elsewhere.

TJ suggested approaching funding sources to match or partially fund the scheme. Suggested Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service as a good source of information.

CSW asked whether it would be worth consulting people again, due to low response last time. TJ suggested gauging people's reactions as and when small pieces of work take place and are completed – the whole Green will not be developed at once. We can also keep people informed via the newsletter.

6 AOB

It was decided that the next meeting planned for 9th March was going to be too late to discuss the Easter Card, get it produced and distributed before Easter w/e 26 & 27 March. An additional meeting has been called on 2nd March at JR's house, 11 Ridgewood Gardens. The meeting on 2nd March will deal with the production of the Easter card only and the normal meeting on 9th March will go ahead as planned for other issues.

7 Date and Time of next meeting – 9th March, 7pm at The Victory
Additional Easter Card meeting on 2nd March at Jerry's House from 7pm.